



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Karen Fiedler, Solid Waste Supervisor  
Waukesha County  
Phone: 262-896-8014  
E-mail: [kfiedler@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:kfiedler@waukeshacounty.gov)

**Residential Trash and Recycling Both Decline for 2008**  
*Continues 5 year trend*

Waukesha (WI) – March 6, 2009 – The county Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) processed 22,662 tons of recyclables from 25 communities in 2008 – down about 1% from 2007. However, the amount of trash disposed by residents in those communities decreased by 4%.

The 13,578 tons of paper plus 7,289 tons of plastic, steel, glass and aluminum containers shipped to markets from the MRF last year saved enough energy to serve 2,281 homes for a year. This is over 1,000 semi trailer loads or 12 miles of trucks filled with baled recyclables lined up bumper to bumper. Total greenhouse gas emissions reduced from recycling all materials was equivalent to taking 5,555 cars off the road for one year. Total landfill space saved was 51,398 cubic yards, the equivalent of a football field filled over 30 feet high.

County Executive Dan Vrakas said, "I would like to thank all the residents that diligently recycle their household paper, bottles and cans. By recycling, our citizens do what's right for the environment while generating tax dollar savings through reduced disposal costs and the sale of recyclable materials."

The county as a whole has experienced an 8% decline in per capita solid waste generated in the past five years from 661 pounds per capita in 2004 to 606 pounds per capita in 2008. Recycling has declined 9% from 190 pounds per capita to 173 pounds per capita during the same time period. Several factors contribute to the decline including lighter weight containers, changes in packaging (i.e. glass to plastic), smaller newspapers and declining circulation numbers, and the economy.

Residents can find out which items are acceptable for recycling in their community by visiting [www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling) and clicking on "What do I recycle?" or calling the recycling office at 896-8300. To replace a damaged blue recycling bin or to get a second bin for more recyclables, residents should contact their town, city or village hall or visit the website for distribution events and locations.

# # #